and drugs by the Central Government for control of malaria including P. falciparum.

रासायनिक कारखानों के इर्द-गिर्द कृषि भूमि

*215. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रासायनिक कारखानों के इर्द-गिर्द की कृषि भूमि अनोपजाऊ होती जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस समया से निपटने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि महासष्ट्र में अमरनाथ के आसपास के इलाकों में रसायन-प्रदूषित पानी के कारण धान की फसल नष्ट हो गई है;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि रासायनिकों से भूमिगत जल भी दूषित हो गया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) इस बारे में सरकार के पास कोई प्रमाणिक सूचना उपलब्ध नहीं है। लेकिन यह सूचित किया गया है कि कुछ मामलों में कृषि उपज प्रभावित हुई है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता। लेकिन सरकार ने रासायनिक फैक्ट्रियों से होने वाले प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए हैं। मुख्य कदम निम्नलिखित हैं:—

1. पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 के अन्तर्गत बहिस्राव और उत्सर्जन मानक निर्धारित किए गए हैं।

2. उद्योगों के स्थान निर्धारण एवं प्रचालन के लिए पर्यावरणीय दिशा-निर्देश तैयार किए गए हैं।

3. बहिस्रावों और उत्सर्जनों के विसर्जनों को निर्धारित सीमाओं के भीतर रखने के लिए उद्योगों से राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों की सहमति अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करने के लिए कहा गया है।

4. केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों के परामर्श से प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले उद्योगों के लिए बहिस्राव और उत्सर्जन मानकों का पालन करने के लिए एक कार्य योजना तैयार की है।

5. प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण लगाने तथा प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले उद्योगों को भीड़-भाड़ वाले क्षेत्रों से स्थानांतरित करने के लिए वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन दिए जाते हैं।

6. परिवेशी वायु और परिवेशी जल गुणवत्ता निगरानी स्टेशनों का नेटवर्क स्थापित किया गया है।

7. साझे बहिस्राव शोधन संयंत्र लगाने के लिए छोटी औद्योगिक इकाइयों के समूह को वित्तीय सहायता देने की एक स्कीम शुरू की गई है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Safety Equipment to Staff/Officers of ONGC

*216. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of safety equipment that is provided to the workers/officers of Oil and Natural Gas Commission who are engaged in the oil exploration process at different places;

(b) the details of their suppliers;

(c) whether it is a fact that safety boots/oil resistant boots are not procured from public sector industries;

(d) whether employees have been exposed to dangers in the process of their work due to inadequate and non-standardized safety equipment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e) Necessary safety equipment is provided to the workers and officers of ONGC engaged in oil exploration work. These items are procured from various sources. Safety boots are also procured from Tannery & Footwear Corporation, Kanpur (a Govt, of India undertaking). The employees are not exposed to dangers due to inadequacy of equipment.

Extinction of Wild Buffalo

*217. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wild buffalo is on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the number of such buffaloes in the country at present; and

(c) the steps taken /proposed to be taken to protect the existing ones and to facilitate its breeding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total number of wild buffaloes in the country is estimated to be 2605.

(c) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the existing populations of the Asiatic wild buffalo and to facilitate its breeding include:

(i) The wild buffalo is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, thus giving the species maximum possible legal protection.

(ii) The existing habitats of the wild buffalo are all part of protected area networks compfising national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, where all wildlife, including the wild buffalo, is given adequate protection and conditions are made congenial for the species to breed freely in its natural habitats.

(iii) Assistance under the Centrally sponsored schemes : 'Project Tiger', 'Assistance for the development of national parks and sanctuaries' and 'Conservation of rhinos in Assam' is extended to the above protected areas for their development, including measures to prevent poaching, encroachments and fires.

(iv) Survey and research are being conducted to locate the genetically pure populations of wild buffaloes and to develop prescriptions for their scientific management and protection of these valuable gene-pools.

(v) Domestic cattle living around the protected areas of Assam is inoculated against contagious diseases.

Scientific Research on Monkeys, Rabbits etc.

@*218. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that scientific research is being carried out in the country on monkeys, rabbits and mice etc. for non-essential purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ban the research on these species for non-essential purposes and to avoid cruelty to these species?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The use of certain animals in bio-medical research is unavoidable and the same is globally accepted. The use of experimental animals for bio-medcal research is necessary for understanding basic and fundamental mechanism in physiology, pathology, pharmacology and allied branches as also for conducting pre-clinical safety efficacy, toxicological studies on food toxins and additives.

Monkeys, rabbits, mice, guinea pigs etc. are used in bio-medical researches conducted intramurally and extramurally by the Indian Council of Medical Research. The protocol for such research studies are carefully scrutinised by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the 26 permanent Institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research and by the Project Review Committee for the extramural research projects, which are funded by ICMR. These pre-review committees ensure that experimental animals are used only when absolutely essential.

Constant efforts are made to ensure that animals do not suffer unduly during experimentation and they are killed painlessly and quickly when they have to be sacrificed for bio-medical research.

@ Previously Starred Question 138, transferred from the 5th March, 1992.